

Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for 2008 to 2010

The main objective of the Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for 2008 to 2010 (hereafter the “Innovation Policy”) is to develop individual measures of the Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2007 to 2013 into specific measures and tasks. Implementing the tasks set out will create favourable conditions for the establishment and implementation of support mechanisms for the formation and development of regional innovation structures, innovation enterprises, partnership and cooperation of companies and universities in the field of research, development, and innovation. At the same time, stepwise implementation of long-term concept plans of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of support to innovation activities will be ensured.

The strategic objective of Slovakia’s innovation strategy until 2013, adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 14 March 2007, is to achieve a situation in which innovations are one of the main tools of knowledge economy development and ensuring high economic growth of the Slovak Republic with the objective of achieving the level of the most advanced economies of the European Union.

In the statement that “pro-innovation culture is not prevailing in Slovakia for the time being”, one could identify an opinion that it is useless to spend state budget funds, which opinion is based on viewing such funds as “costs” rather than an “investment”. There is also an opinion that directly excludes co-financing of innovation, reasoning that it is the responsibility of businesses. Slovak companies will continue innovating, but compared to others they will be handicapped and less competitive. A solution is a multi-source support to financing – from public, international and business sources, while it is necessary to motivate enterprises to use particularly the last two sources.

In the period of 2008-13, it will be necessary to create a national innovation system in the Slovak Republic including regional innovation structures (incubators, innovation centres, consulting centres and other elements). The objective of building the regional structures is to bring support activities as close to entrepreneurs as possible, particularly to small and medium-sized enterprises (hereafter “SME”). On the basis of building an efficiently working innovation system, the following is expected to be achieved by 2013:

- a positive trend in the development of innovative processes reflected in the economy and social area,
- an increased number of projects successfully implemented,
- innovations will contribute 25% to the gross domestic product increase through innovation in the given year (presently the contribution is about 8%),
- over 50% of companies in industry and services, particularly SME’s, will be of innovative nature (according to EC reports, only 13% of SME’s introduced new products to the market with 32% of the existing products having been innovated in the period of 2002-04).
- the competitiveness will improve, particularly that of SME’s,
- over 5% of enterprise innovation proposals will result from university research, public research and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (presently the percentage of innovation proposals coming from university and academic environment is less than 1%).

The Innovation Policy is primarily based on the Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2007 to 2013 and on the following documents of the Government of the Slovak Republic:

- Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic,
- National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2006-08;

- The National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-13, particularly the operational programme “Competitiveness and Economic Growth” (“OP C&EG”) of the Ministry of Economy of the SR, the operational Programme “Research and Development” (“OP R&D”) of the Ministry of Education of the SR, partially the Regional Operational Programme (“ROP”) of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR, the operational programme “Informatisation of Society” (“OP IS”) of the Slovak Republic Government Office, the operational programme Education (“OP E”) of the Ministry of Education of the SR, the operational programme “Employment and Social Inclusion” (“OP E&SI”) of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR.

The draft of the Innovation Policy for 2008 to 2010 has been designed to fit in the framework of the EC policy and, at the same time, to be a Slovakia-specific programme, i.e., to address national interests as a priority.

The basic goal of the innovation policy is to create support mechanisms for the formation and development of regional innovation structures, innovation enterprises, partnership and cooperation of companies and universities in the field of research and development, gaining new markets in a sustainable environment so as to ensure and improve the population’s quality of life and to draw as much benefits as possible from the prosperity of businesses for the national economy. In particular, the following is involved:

1. improving competitiveness of businesses while adhering to the principles of sustainable development,
2. development of employment, increasing the expertise and flexibility of labour,
3. regional development.

To reach the main objective of the innovation policy in 2008 to 2010, the following will be necessary:

- to complete the innovation support structure capable of absorbing the allocated funds in accordance with the Innovation Strategy of the SR and efficiently convert them into innovations,
- to prepare and launch the implementation of support programmes, projects, and schemes,
- to establish a network of regional innovation centres – RIC.

Measures and tasks of the Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for 2008 to 2010

To reach the above-mentioned effects, it will be necessary to proceed by completing individual partial steps – interlinked measures and tasks with specified deadlines and responsibilities so as to achieve a synergic effect of funds spent.

As for the volume of funds allocated to the support for innovation activities, **structural funds** will undoubtedly play a priority role in the forthcoming period. In particular, these will include the Operational Programme “Competitiveness and Economic Growth”, the Operational Programme “Research and Development”, and the Operational Programme “Employment and Social Inclusion”, the amounts of funds being indicated below.

Overview of planned spending for the measures of the Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for 2008 to 2010

	Measure name	Planned spending (SF+SB) (mil. SKK)	Of which state budget co-financing	Source of funding
1.	Building Regional Innovation Centres – RIC, including support to continued education and counselling to entities entering RIC's	4,950	495 (10%) MoEdu SR, MoLSAF SR	ERDF, ESF OP R&D, OP E&SI, SB
2.	Innovation and technology transfers	2,996	450 (15%) MoE SR	ERDF, OP C&EG, SB
3.	Support of innovation activities in enterprises	2,038	306 (15%) MoE SR	ERDF, OP C&EG, SB
4.	Project to establish national information infrastructure and its nationwide use by businesses	220	44 (20%) MoE SR	ERDF SOP I&S, SB
5.	INTERREG IVC	540	0*	ERDF, public administration
6.	Financial engineering tools – support to financing innovation and support to increasing investment to innovation from public sources	330	50 (15%)	ERDF, OP C&EG, SB
	TOTAL	11,074	1,345	

* to be co-financed from public sources

The rate used to convert EUR to SKK was 33 SKK/1 EUR.

To achieve a favourable effect, the Ministry of Economy of the SR proposes to adopt, and, in the period of 2008-10 to implement, the following measures:

Measure No. 1 Building regional innovation centres (RIC)

Securing the implementation of the state regional innovation policy, support to innovation processes in Slovakia's region, and the transition to knowledge society – these topics are addressed in the programming documents of the OP R&D and OP E&SI. The implementation of the state and regional innovation policy is planned through integrated innovation instruments in the regions of Slovakia. The purpose of the project is to build regional innovation centres ("RIC") in Slovakia's regions.

RIC's in the regions will assist in creating efficient capacities to address innovation activities in the business sector, particularly in SME's, that will be financed through OP C&EG and, at the same time, a more effective interconnection of the business sector to the results of enterprise research and innovation will be secured. Creating RIC's will support improvement of cooperation between the production sphere, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and research and development organisations, universities, and higher education institutions, ensuring appropriate material and technical facilities for innovative enterprise, and improving access to information and to provision of services in the field of innovation.

The activities supported within this project will contribute to improving competitiveness and to sustainable growth of industry and services in the regions. Building RIC will form platforms for future international cooperation for the regions. Special attention needs to be paid to the selection

and training of human resources for innovative business and to technical equipment of RIC's. Last but not least, networking on regional, national and international level needs to be addressed.

The implementation of the project of building RIC's will be ensured by the MoE SR through an existing structure of Intermediate Bodies under the Managing Authority on the basis of methodological guidance by the MoEdu SR as the Managing Authority.

Successful establishment and efficient operation of RIC's in the period of 2008-13 in individual regions of the SR will be implemented as follows:

Task No. 1: Ensure RIC funding through OP R&D and OP E&SI

Deadline: On a running basis throughout the programming period 2007-13

Responsible: respective Managing Authorities

Task No. 2: Establishing RIC's

Establishing associations of legal entities under Section 20(f) of the Civil Code. They will be founded by public administration (municipalities, towns, self-governing regions), state and public higher education institutions, SAS.

Deadline: by the end of 2010

Responsible: public administration responsible for establishing the RIC

Task No. 3: Ensuring administrative capacities

In this phase, RIC will be staffed and management training will be provided.

Deadline: within 6 months of publishing the call

Responsible: individual RIC's

Task No. 4: Building technical and technological infrastructure of individual RIC's

Deadline: second half of 2008 to 2010

Responsible: individual RIC's

Task No. 5: Implementation of innovative instrument projects

Deadline: on a running basis by the end of the programming period

Responsible: individual RIC's

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 1.1: Financial support to establishment of innovation centres

Measure 3.2: Support of common services for entrepreneurs

Indicative amount of funds for the measure (2007-13): SKK 4,950 million
of which for 2008-10: SKK 4,950 million

Measure No. 2 Operational Programme "Competitiveness and Economic Growth" – measure 1.1. Innovation and technology transfers

The purpose of the measure is the support to private sector with the focus being particularly on innovation and technology transfers, which should contribute to addressing the problem of energy intensity, reduction of environmental impacts and improving efficiency of production, which will subsequently ensure improvement in competitiveness of enterprises and services, added value growth, improving effectiveness, modernisation of equipment, etc. Technology transfer is directly linked to innovation transfer in manufacturing technologies and in services and, at the same time, stimulates innovation of products and services. Besides technology transfer and innovation, this measure is expected to bring about job creation through support to business.

Envisaged state aid schemes (de minimis schemes):

- State aid scheme to support the introduction of innovative and advanced technologies in industry and services,
- Scheme to support the introduction of innovative and advanced technologies in industry and services (de minimis aid scheme),
- Scheme to support start-up businesses (de minimis scheme) – the scheme is designed to support the activities of start-up businesses, has been developed and will be implemented in cooperation with the MoLSAF SR,

Task No. 1: Drawing up the calls

Deadline: in accordance with the OP C&EG Call Schedule

Responsible: MoE SR

Task No. 2: Submitting applications: by 2013

Project implementation: in the course of 2008-15

Responsible: the beneficiaries

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.1: Innovation and technology transfers

Indicative amount of funds for the measure (2007-13): SKK 7,491 million
of which for 2008-10: SKK 2,996 million

Measure No. 3 Operational Programme “Competitiveness and Economic Growth” – measure 1.3. - Support of innovation activities in enterprises

The purpose of the Measure is to increase the competitiveness of industry through supporting innovation activities and the related applied research in businesses, i.e., through supporting the introduction of new innovations for technologies (not their purchase), procedures, or products. When introducing innovations in the practice, entrepreneurs may apply for funds also towards compensation of the costs of experts in the relevant field.

The objective is also the support for implementation of best practices and production methods of global level in new and existing companies (for example, introduction of quality management systems or other systems (e.g., product certification by the European conformity mark – Keymark), protection of intellectual property, industrial design, which increase the businesses' competitiveness). The objective is to enable businesses to build an accreditation and certification system focused on increasing quality of production and the possibility of becoming involved in international cooperation.

Envisaged state aid schemes (de minimis schemes):

- State aid scheme to support applied research and development focused on innovation,
- Scheme supporting innovation, introduction of quality management systems, protection of industrial rights, and introduction of technical standards in production practice and services (de minimis aid scheme).

Task No. 1: Drawing up the calls

Deadline: in accordance with the OP C&EG Call Schedule

Responsible: MoE SR

Task No. 2: Submitting applications: by 2013

Project implementation: in the course of 2008-15

Responsible: the beneficiaries

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.3: Support of innovation activities in enterprises

Indicative amount of funds for the measure (2007-13): SKK 5,095 million
of which for 2008-10: SKK 2,038 million

Measure No. 4 Project to establish national information infrastructure and its nationwide use by businesses

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of the information system for small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly the improvement of the use and networking of information among scientific, academic and specialised libraries, the end users of this information being small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. The goal of the project is to create conditions for accelerated application of the internet in the practice, namely by creating, populating, updating and making accessible databases on the internet and ensuring their interlinking, which will result in accessibility and concentration of information necessary for businesses.

Creating a national information infrastructure will enable small and medium-sized enterprises to obtain basic information on the latest knowledge in the field of materials, technologies, standards, and intellectual property, which will give the business an impetus for their own innovation. The interlinking of information libraries (focused on certain industries) and the links to regional innovation centres will establish a system of innovation implementation.

Task: Improving the quality of the information system and access to information for SME's

Deadline: start of implementation: 2007

completion of implementation: 2008

Responsible: MoC SR (Slovak National Library, Martin)

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.2: Support of common services for entrepreneurs

Envisaged amount of funds for the project: SKK 220 million within Measure 1.2. of the SOP I&S¹
of which for 2008-09: SKK 220 million

Measure No. 5 Operational Programme INTERREG IVC

The objective of the programme of interregional cooperation INTERREG IVC is to enable the cooperation among bodies and actors on the regional and local levels from different EU27 countries plus Norway and Switzerland in joint projects with the aim of exchanging and transferring experience and jointly developing approaches and instruments aimed at improving the efficiency of regional development policies and contributing to economic modernisation.

The purpose of the programme is to improve regional and local policies in the field of innovation and knowledge economy by establishing contacts between regions with smaller experience in the specific part of policy with regions having greater experience in the field of using research, technologies, and innovations. Target groups and beneficiaries of funds may include

¹ SOP I&S – Sectoral Operational Programme “Industry and Services”

regional and local public authorities; regional development agencies, universities, knowledge and research institutions of education, operators of scientific and technology parks, business incubators, and innovation centres.

Task: Active involvement in joint international projects in the period of public calls

Deadline: Second call – envisaged – June – October 2008

Third call – envisaged – February – May 2009

Responsible: public administration in cooperation with the MoE SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 1.1: Financial support to establishment of innovation centres

Measure 3.2: Support of common services for entrepreneurs

Envisaged amount of funds for the measure (2007-13):	SKK 1,350 million
of which for 2008-10:	SKK 540 million

Measure No. 6: Financial engineering tools – support to financing innovation and support to increasing investment to innovation from public sources

The measure is focused on mobilising financial sources in the field of support to innovations with the objective of ensuring funding for innovation activities of business entities on the level of advanced EU countries. Referring to the effort to use the allocated funds as efficiently as possible, it is possible to use indirect state aid, so called innovative financial instruments or financial engineering instruments, for SME's profit-oriented projects. These include financial engineering instruments such as guarantee funds, loan funds, venture capital funds, and city development funds. The Ministry of Finance of the SR proposes to use the innovative financial instruments for:

- micro loan guarantee scheme for start-up businesses;
- social micro loans;
- portfolio guarantee schemes for SME's;
- guarantee scheme to support activities in the field of factoring;
- venture capital funds:
 - Seed Capital Fund;
 - Development Capital Fund;
 - smaller investments in venture funds;
- Intellectual Property Fund (IP Fund);
- building the Business Angels Network (BANs);
- Investment Readiness Incentive Fund (VC: Private).

The Government of the SR, having discussed a draft procedure for the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative, charged the minister of finance with the task to develop, in cooperation with competent ministers, the alternatives for the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative and to prepare implementation documents for a session of the Government by the end of January 2008. Subsequently, the Government of the SR will choose the appropriate alternative of implementing a holding fund in the SR and determine the amount of binding allocations from the respective operational programmes to the holding fund.

Task: Ensuring funding of business entities' innovation activities on the level of advanced EU countries

Deadline: after the approval of the implementation documents for the JEREMIE initiative and the holding fund in the SR.

Responsible: MoE SR in cooperation with the MoF SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.3: Support of innovation activities in enterprises

Envisaged amount of funds for the measure (2007-13):	SKK 825 million
of which for 2008-10:	SKK 330 million

To achieve the main objective of the Innovation Policy, it will be necessary to consecutively implement further measures during the period in question to the extent permitted by the state budget.

Measure No. 7: Competition “Innovative Deed of the Year”

The goal of this measure is to call a competition under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Economy of the SR with the objective of ensuring promotion of innovation activities, improving information of the public on activities in the field of innovation, and awarding innovating entities.

The competition will be organised in three categories:

1. product
2. service
3. environmental deed.

The awards will be of moral nature but they may involve prizes such as study stays, technical equipment, participation in international conferences, etc. The target group includes business entities implementing innovations.

Task No. 1: Developing the competition rules

Deadline: 31 March 2008

Responsible: MoE SR (SIEA)

Task No. 2: Calling the competition “Innovative Deed of the Year”

Deadline: annually on 31 July

Responsible: MoE SR (SIEA)

Task No. 3: Award ceremony

Deadline: annually on 30 November

Responsible: MoE SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 2.1: Support to communication tools aimed at the promotion of innovativeness

Measure No. 8: Adapting higher and secondary technical education to the requirements of the practice

Adapting the secondary technical education system to the requirements of the practice needs to be addressed comprehensively in the form of a law on technical education that will primarily address the relation of secondary technical schools and the employers, creating conditions for the involvement of business entities in drafting and innovation of curricula and educational programmes. Substantial solution will be drafted to address the demand of graduates for the labour

market and their integration in the practice. A dominant position in addressing the adaptation of the secondary technical education system to the requirements of the practice will be held by the MoEdu SR, which will actively work with all concerned ministries that will be coordinating this process.

Task: Draft a technical education act.

Deadline: November 2008

Responsible: MoEdu SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 2.2: Supporting the increase of human capital quality through educational activities, mobility and knowledge transfer

Measure No. 9: Lifelong learning system

The strategy of lifelong learning and lifelong counselling defines the obligation of creating a general and comprehensive system of lifelong learning so that it responds flexibly to the needs of the citizens, employers, public administration as well as educational institutions in adapting to the changing needs in the labour market. The system should guarantee greater expertise of the workforce and thereby it should become an element in reducing unemployment.

Task: Continuing the formation of the lifelong education system as implied by Government Resolution No. 382/2007

Deadline: 31 December 2010

Responsible: MoEdu SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 2.2: Supporting the increase of human capital quality through educational activities, mobility and knowledge transfer

Measure No. 10: Innovation vouchers

This is a measure to ensure the links between businesses (especially SME's) and universities, higher education institutions, and research and development organisations. In particular, this includes "non-cash vouchers" provided by the administrator of the programme (SIEA) directly to the business entity for the purchase of services from an eligible research and development organisation (a list of eligible organisations will be compiled in the course of the second half of 2008). A business entity having a specific innovation idea would address an eligible organisation that will help them solve this idea and propose the method of introducing it to production. Once the solution has been handed over to the business, the business will pay using the voucher, and the eligible organisation will submit the voucher for reimbursement to the programme administrator. Vouchers obtained for services provided will be submitted by the eligible organisation to the programme administrator for reimbursement. A secondary result of this tool is that if the businesses establish promising first contacts with research and development organisations it is probable that their cooperation would continue in the future as well. As a relatively low nominal value of the cheque is involved (about SKK 50,000), entire administrative process must be fast, simple, and inexpensive.

Task No. 1: Developing the system for the provision of vouchers

Deadline: 30 September 2008

Responsible: MoE SR

Task No. 2: Compiling the list of eligible organisations

Deadline: 30 September 2008

Responsible: MoE SR

Task No. 3: Launching the system

Deadline: after obtaining the necessary funds

Responsible: MoE SR (Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency)

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.3: Support of innovation activities in enterprises

Measure No. 11: Innovation incentives

The goal is to give incentives to the private sector to increase spending in applied research and innovation. The objective of the measure is to introduce a system for the provision of innovation incentives to motivate the investors to make investments with high added value based on sophisticated production procedures. Special benefits will be provided to investors from the area of high-tech production, scientific research centres, and technology platforms.

Task: Designing the system for the provision of innovation incentives

Deadline: 31 December 2010

Responsible: MoE SR

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.3: Support of innovation activities in enterprises

Measure No. 12: Protection of intellectual property

The goal of this measure is to strengthen the functionality of the intellectual property protection system and to strengthen the enforceability of individual intellectual property rights. It is necessary to improve information of the Slovak public on the intellectual property protection system and to increase the quality of support services resulting in the ability to sufficiently flexibly respond to scientific and technical progress in the field of intellectual property and its administration (internetisation, globalisation of information flows, new challenges in making accessible the subject matters of individual intellectual property rights, digitalisation, administration of rights in the globalised information society, support to creativity and innovation, stimulation of creativity, technology transfer, increasing market competitiveness) as well as achieving greater efficiency in enforceability of intellectual property rights. Special attention will have to be paid to developing a system of specific financial support instruments for small and medium-sized enterprises in the use of the intellectual property right system (particularly for the area of inventor right, design right, and legal protection of computer software).

Task No. 1: Develop a support system for intellectual property development and use

Deadline: 31 December 2010

Responsible: MoE SR (Industrial Property Office of the SR)

Task No. 2: Defining specific support instruments for intellectual property development and use

Deadline: 31 December 2010

Responsible: MoE SR (Industrial Property Office of the SR)

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.3: Support of innovation activities in enterprises

Measure No. 13: Support to projects seeking funds from the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

The measure is aimed at creating conditions in the agency (SIEA) for an improvement of administrative technical assistance in the preparation of projects seeking support in the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme. Considering support to CIP projects and their possible support also from structural funds, the main objective will be to develop such systems that will enable project financial support from CIP funds in parallel with that from structural funds on condition that both sources may support a project in different stages or parts so as to avoid duplicity of financial support from both sources. The reason is to achieve synergic effect in support to research and development using CIP funds and using structural funds.

Task: Develop a support system for projects seeking funds from CIP

Deadline: 30 September 2008

Responsible: MoE SR (SIEA)

Links to the Innovation Strategy of the SR for 2007-13:

Measure 3.2: Support of common services for entrepreneurs

The prerequisite of long-term economic growth of the SR and building information society is the implementation of measures and tasks of the Innovation Policy of the SR for 2008-10, primarily in the field of innovation, technology transfer, research and development, education, application of information and communication technologies, quality improvement, and intellectual property protection.

A crucial factor in the innovation process is a correctly set support to innovation activities reflecting regional needs. Stimulation of cooperation between enterprises, particularly the SME's, and research, development and education institutions will speed up the transfer of knowledge and its transformation into innovated products and services competitive in demanding markets. Transferring innovative and new technologies, information and communication technologies to industrial practice and service sector will result in an increase of production competitiveness in international markets, increase of productivity and employment.

The measures proposed in the Innovation Policy of the SR for 2008 to 2010 will contribute to balanced development of regions and to elimination of regional disparities. The benefits will include ensuring sustainable economic development of enterprises, regions, and the Slovak Republic, creating new high-quality jobs, increased attractiveness of the regions, and building information society.

List of acronyms used

EU – European Union
SR – Slovak Republic
EC – European Commission
R&D – research and development
GDP – gross domestic product
SB – state budget
7CIP – Seventh Competitiveness and Innovation Programme of the European Union
CIP – Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
MoE SR – Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MoEdu SR – Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
MoF SR – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MoLSAF SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
RIC – Regional Innovation Centres
NSRF – National Strategic Reference Framework
OP – Operational programme
OP E – Operational Programme “Education”
OP C&EG – Operational programme “Competitiveness and Economic Growth”
OP R&D – Operational Programme “Research and Development”
OP E&SI – Operational Programme “Employment and Social Inclusion”
ROP – Regional Operational Programme
OP IS – Operational Programme “Informatisation of Society”
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund
CF – Cohesion Fund
ESF – European Social Fund
SME – small and medium-sized enterprises
SII – Summary Innovation Index
SAS – Slovak Academy of Sciences
SCCI – Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry
SIEA – Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
UNI – Universities

Clause of financial, economic, environmental impacts and influence on the employment and business environment

I. Estimated impacts on public finance

The present document has an impact on public finance. Funds for individual ministries' activities will be provided within the approved limits of the relevant budget chapters for the corresponding budget year, without increased demands on the state budget. The funds for individual operational programmes as well as co-financing from the SB have been approved within the National Strategic Reference Framework on 6 December 2006 by Resolution of the Government No. 1005/2006.

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II. Estimated impacts on the population, economy of the business sector and other legal entities

Positive impact is envisaged on the population and the profitability of businesses and other legal entities with respect to the expected acceleration and development of innovation processes in the Slovak Republic, improvement of population's quality of life and on the prosperity of business entities.

III. Estimated environmental impacts

Positive impacts on the environment are expected with respect to measures emphasising the need of environmental protection.

IV. Estimated impact on employment

No negative impact on employment is expected in the short term. In the long term, an increase in employment is expected along with rising competitiveness of business entities.

V. Analysis of the impact on the business environment

The present document will have a positive impact on the business environment, as it is aimed at the development of the business environment through innovations.

Innovation growth poles in regions

When drafting the Innovation Strategy of the SR, the analysis included the innovation potential of regions by self-governing counties to enable preliminary definition of growth poles in the regions. The table below indicates which regions have prerequisites for the development of the relevant sectors. In project evaluation only those projects will be supported that are in accordance with the growth poles. Where, for example, two RIC's are interested in innovation in the same sector, agreement is necessary on implementation of only one joint centre within the SR, which they may establish jointly. This will prevent duplicate projects in the sectors and, at the same time, ensure project sustainability. The centres built will form the basis for building centres of excellence.

Innovation growth poles in regions are documented in the table below

Region	Innovation development fields of nationwide scope	Universities	Research institutes	Business organisations
Bratislava	Logistics Information and communication technologies Automation, instrumentation and control Chemical and biotechnological engineering	Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava SAS – SAS research institutes, Bratislava	Leading institution of the technical centre for the development of electrical engineering and information technologies – Cables and Insulating Materials Research Institute, Bratislava Leading institution of the technical centre for the development of wood processing, furniture and pulp & paper industry – VUPC, a.s. Bratislava Research Institute of Chemical Technology, Bratislava Slovnaft – VÚRUP, a. s., Bratislava Drug Research Institute, a. s. – presently hameln rds a. s., Modra Cyclotron Centre of the SR, Bratislava Research Institute of Welding – Industrial institute of the SR, Bratislava Prvá zväračská a. s. Bratislava VUPEX a. s. Bratislava Food Research Institute, Bratislava	Slovnaft a. s. Bratislava Volkswagen a. s. Bratislava BEZ, a. s. Bratislava Siemens Bratislava PPA Control Bratislava TOWER AUTOMOTIVE Malacky
Trnava	Increasing energy security and use of renewable energy sources Automotive industry Electrical engineering industry	Faculty of Material Sciences and Technology Trnava University of SS Cyril and Methodius Trnava	Leading institution of the technical centre for energy sector development – VÚJE a. s., Trnava Technical Testing Institute Piešťany, š. p. Piešťany Research Institute of Air	NPP Jaslovské Bohunice PSA Peugeot Citroën Trnava SH a. s. Senica Chemolak a. s. Smolenice Samsung Galanta

			Conditioning, Piešťany	ON Samsung Voderady Semiconductor Piešťany TOMA Industries Trnava
Trenčín	Small-scale chemistry products, Chemical specialties, Industrial ecology, Advanced materials (primarily glass industry, advanced ceramics, textile industry) Mechatronics Semiconductor converters and drives	Trenčín University of A. Dubček Trenčín Joint glass research laboratory of the SAS Institute of Inorganic Chemistry and of the Trenčín University of A. Dubček, Trenčín	Leading institution of the technical centre for processing industry development – VIPO a. s., Partizánske ZTS Elektrotechnika a. s., Nová Dubnica EVPU a. s., Nová Dubnica VZP a. s., Prievidza VUG a. s., Púchov VUP Prievidza	Matador Rubber s. r. o. Púchov NCHZ a. s. Nováky Emerson Nové Mesto nad Váhom PS Letecké motory Považská Bystrica STROJTECH Nové Mesto nad Váhom TRENS Trenčín VOJUS Pov. Bystrica Konštrukta Industry Trenčín CHIRANA Stará Turá Chirana Medical Stará Turá
Nitra	Agriculture, Food industry, their technologies, Traditional and non-traditional foodstuffs and their safety Plastics processing Biotechnologies, Ecology and environment linked to food industry	Slovak University of Agriculture Nitra Constantine the Philosopher University Nitra	Slovak Agricultural Research Centre, Nitra Leading institution of the technical centre for chemical and pharmaceutical industry development – VUSAPL a.s., Nitra Navicom a.s., Research Institute of Shipbuilding, Komárno VUNAR a. s., Nové Zámky Izotopcentrum, s. r. o. Nitra	NPP Mochovce Smurfit Kappa, a. s. Štúrovo Plastika, a. s. Nitra Duslo, a. s. Šaľa SONY Nitra Osram N. Zámky KIWA Nitra Elektrokarbon Topoľčany
Žilina	Information and telecommunication technologies, Industry of mineral deposits, Machinery industry Railway and air transportation, Selected fields of medicine	University of Žilina Žilina Competitiveness and Innovation Institute – Research and Education Institute, Žilina University, Žilina	Leading institution of the technical centre for machinery sector development - Vývoj Martin a. s. Martin VÚTCH-CHEMITEX spol. s. r. o. Žilina VURAL a. s., Žilina VÚVT Engineering a. s. Žilina Transport Research Institute, Žilina Slovak Productivity Centre, Science and Technology Park, Žilina	KIA Motors Slovakia s. r. o. Žilina Metsä tissue a. s. Žilina Mondi Bussines Paper SCP a. s. Ružomberok KOBIT-SK Dolný Kubín AVC Čadca ŽOS Vrútky TSM Martin KLF-ZVL Kováčňa Kysucké N. Mesto ZKL KINEX Bytča GMF Martin COMPEIL RAIL Martin OFZ a. s. Istebné INA Kysuce, a. s. Kysucké Nové Mesto, MAR SK, s. r. o.

				Sučany, Kinex-KLF, a.s. Kysucké Nové Mesto
Banská Bystrica	Wood processing industry Ecology and environmental technologies Renewable energy sources Metallurgy, light metal processing and recycling Working machines and equipment and their systems	Technical University, Zvolen Association of Wood Processors, Zvolen Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica	National Forestry Centre, Zvolen SAS Forest Ecology Institute, Zvolen Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, Banská Bystrica IPM Engineering s. r. o. Zvolen KWD s. r. o., Zvolen PPS Vývoj s. r. o. Zvolen ZV Test s. r. o. Zvolen INVESTHEY- Group s. r. o. Zvolen LOBB a. s. Banská Bystrica	SHP a. s. Harmanec Degussa Slovakia s.r.o Slov. Ľupča VONSCH Brezno CSM Tisovec WAY Industry Krupina Pohronské strojárne Hliník nad Hronom THORMA Fiľakovo Thermo/SOLAR ŽIAR ŽIAR nad Hronom Slovaco a. s. Istebné ZSNP a. s. Žiar nad Hronom Železiarne a. s. Podbrezová
Prešov	Industry automation and mechanisation Packaging materials Selected fields of healthcare and pharmacy	University of Prešov Prešov University of Košice Košice Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies, Prešov	VUCHV a. s., Svit Výučbovo - študijné centrum FCHPT v Humennom VUKOV EXTRA a. s. Prešov	Bukocel a. s. Hencovce Chemosvit Folie a.s. Svit Tatravagónka Poprad Tatramat Poprad Spinea Prešov Premetal Prešov Potravinárske strojárne Svidník Kronospan SK, s. r. o. Prešov Bukóza Hencovce OZKN a. s. Prešov Rhodia Industrial Yarns Slovakia Humenné IMUNA Šarišské Michaľany Stroptel, s. r. o. Stropkov Whirpool Slovakia, s. r. o. Poprad
Košice	Biotechnology – probiotics and biomodulators, applications of bioactive substances Metallurgical industry	P. J. Šafárik University Košice Technical University Košice	ZTS VVU, Košice SAV, Košice Research Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Košice	Chemko a. s. Strážske Matsushita Krompachy Molex Kechenec SEZ Krompachy VSS Košice UNOMEDICA Michalovce EMBRACO Spišská

				Nová Ves Vagónka Trebišov U.S. Steel s. r. o. Košice
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